

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

1023731958 & 1025059056 } ^{Fig 8} ^{Ar23} [1703] → ^{intended use} (3) [60, 80]

12. (Currently Amended) A connecting element for insertion into ends of at least two hollow sections of different cross-section of a transverse beam of an automobile instrument panel, comprising: a frame with side walls extending in a direction x of insertion; and a push-fit body shape-formed by extrusion on the frame, the push fit body having a smaller cross-section than the frame and containing lengths of the frame side walls so that the connecting element has two different cross-sections in the x direction and so that the hollow sections are respectively slideable on the cross-sections so as to extend longitudinally along a substantially common axis in the direction x. (1) [1703] (5) [60, 80] (2) [60, 80]

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13. (Previously Presented) A connecting element according to claim 12, wherein the frame surround the push-fit body.

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14. (Previously Presented) A connecting element according to claim 12, wherein the push-fit body forms a corner of the frame.

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15. (Previously Presented) A connecting element according to claim 12, wherein a frame bracket is formed onto the frame on an outer side of one of the side walls.

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16. (Previously Presented) A connecting element according to claim 15, wherein the frame bracket has arms on the frame aligned with parallel side walls of the frame.

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17. (Previously Presented) A connecting element according to claim 12, and further comprising a sleeve for a bolt at two opposite lying corners within the frame.

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18. (Currently Amended) A connecting element according to claim [[12]] 15, and further comprising a sleeve for a bolt at two opposite lying corners in the frame bracket.

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19. (Previously Presented) A connecting element according to claim 12, wherein the push-fit body is arranged to project out of one side of the frame in the direction of insertion (x).

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depends on the position of bracket design

20. (Previously Presented) A connecting element according to claim 15, wherein the frame is configured to project on one side in the direction of insertion beyond a plane defined by an outer edge of the frame bracket.

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Same as 20

21. (Previously Presented) A connecting element according to claim 20, wherein on an opposite side of the frame bracket the push-fit body projects beyond a plane defined by the outer edge.